



# ***In Case of Emergency...***

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

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## **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

*By Scott Behunin, DES Director*

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to all during this very special time of year. The holiday season and the coming of a new year is a time to be shared with family and friends. It also affords us the opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments over the past 12 months as well as anticipate the challenges that lie ahead.

A lot has happen during 2002 in Utah: the Olympics, wildfires, mudslides, tornados, drought and a new thing called Homeland Security. Fortunately there was no loss of life and even though there was significant property damage, we will survive. Thanks to all of the local management directors, staffs and first responder organizations. Your task is difficult; plan, protect, prevent, train, exercise, respond and recover – no minor feat with lean budgets, limited personnel and sometimes a lack of understanding.

During the coming year, the primary focus will be Homeland Security planning. Grants will soon be available to those who applied. The best thing you can do now, and especially in lean times, is to have a solid emergency operation plan. Future funding will depend upon it.

We will be here to assist you with your plans and infrastructure assessments. We will do what we can to support you in your efforts to complete your local plan by December 2003 or sooner.

Funding is still a large issue: we know the President has promised funding to the local jurisdictions for almost eight months. I understand the funding is still coming, but perhaps not as much as we thought. This will cause all of us to focus on specific threat assessments. In other words, we won't be able to prevent everything, but we better be ready to respond to everything.

Congratulations on the fantastic job you do. I greatly appreciate the relationships we have. I look forward to a great 2003 and although I don't wish for any disasters it is my hope we will be ready for whatever comes our way. Please know that Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security will always be here to support you.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 10	Capstone Conference
January 23	City/County Directors Conference
February 10-12	LEPC Conference
March 17-18	PIO Conference

For more information, contact DES at 801-538-3400 or toll-free at 800-753-2858

## **STATE RECIEVES HOMELAND GRANTS**

The much anticipated grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency have arrived in Utah totaling \$1,091,773. One grant for \$785,322 is dedicated to developing and enhancing state and local all-hazards emergency operation plans. A grant of \$50,000 provides for assessment of the state's Emergency Operations Center. Another grant, totaling \$256,451, is to support the growth of Citizen Corps activities and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) which are both volunteer programs established at the grassroots level of emergency management through the use of local citizens.

"These grants assists Utah and its local communities in preparing for disasters of all types," said Verdi White, Governor's deputy for Homeland Security.

DES distributed grant applications earlier this year to local cities and counties. Based on the grant amounts received from FEMA, more than 61 local jurisdictions will receive grants ranging from \$500-\$68,000. These will be awarded by the end of January.

Funds are provided through the fiscal year 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act For Further Recovery From and Response to Terrorist Attacks.

The CERT program trains and equips local neighborhood disaster response teams. CERT provides limited emergency response services such as light search-and rescue, communications, initial damage assessment and evacuation in the first 72 hours of a disaster. These teams do not replace first responders but are designed to augment their services.

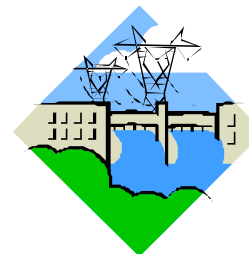
The Citizen Corps program encourages and develops additional opportunities for citizen involvement in Homeland Security and disaster response. Programs include Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, CERT and Medical Reserve Corps.

## **HOMELAND SECURITY PLAYS BIG ROLE IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION**

Utah Homeland Security is the lead agency for critical infrastructure mitigation and threat/vulnerability assessment.

Federal, state and local agencies regularly meet with private partners to ensure critical assets are secured against a potential attack. Communication and cooperative planning diminish vulnerability.

Utah's critical infrastructure includes telecommunications, electrical power systems, gas and oil production/distribution, banking and financial institutions, transportation systems, water supply systems, health and government services.



## DES DEPUTY DIRECTOR REASSIGNED



Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Flowers has tapped Major Stu Smith, DES deputy director since August, to head the State Bureau of Investigations. Stu replaces Captain Lance Davenport who will be attending the FBI's national academy this winter.

"Stu has been a great asset to this office and he will be missed," said DES director Scott Behunin. "His leadership and oversight has helped to bridge the gap between the emergency services and homeland security sides of the house."

A new deputy director should be named in the next few weeks.

## CSEPP PLANNING INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program staff from DES, and Tooele and Salt Lake County Emergency Management attended a conference on planning integration this month in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The theme of the workshop was "CSEPP Planning – Building Community through Momentum, Activities, and Performance." Several CSEPP workgroups attended and held meetings in conjunction with the conference including planners, medical and public affairs.

The groups came together for an opening plenary session where important issues across the program were discussed. These included acute exposure guideline levels, performance measures, reentry and recovery, and CAIRA exercises. Planning has also begun for the annual conference that will be held June 24-26 in Mobile, Alabama. The conference will include more integrated sessions than in previous years.

## COOPER TAKING TO THE AIRWAVES

DES Community Support Officer Al Cooper will be featured in a brand new radio program, "Provident Living – Home and County."

The program will air Mondays at 2:00 p.m. on KSUB AM 590 out of Cedar City. It debuts Monday, Dec. 23.

Al says that the magazine-style format emphasizes family and community preparedness and self-reliance for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Listeners are encouraged to call in and participate in the show.

Al's brand of story telling and his vast experience will delight listeners. So if you are in the Cedar City area, be sure to tune in.

### REQUEST FOR GUEST CONTRIBUTORS

Is your emergency management program doing something interesting? Do you have information your colleagues might benefit from? Why not share it in this newsletter. We would like to feature the good things that are going on statewide in this newsletter each month. Send your columns, news stories, ideas and tidbits to [paulae@utah.gov](mailto:paulae@utah.gov).

## CAPSTONE SCHEDULED

DES and the Utah Emergency Management Association are sponsoring the annual Emergency Management Capstone Conference January 10 at the Provo Marriott. The conference is a celebration for individuals who have successfully completed the FEMA Professional Development Series courses.

The theme of this year's conference is "Disaster has no greater enemy." Speakers include State Senator Ron Allen, Provo's chief administrative officer Bob Stockwell, and Laura Bedore. Other topics include a report on bio-terrorism, the media and exercise design.

The conference is free to UEMA Year 2002 members. For others, there is a \$25 conference fee, which includes the day's activities and a one-year membership in UEMA.

For additional information, please contact DES training department at 801-538-3400 or visit our training website at [des.utah.gov](http://des.utah.gov).

## STATE TO TEMPORARILY USE E TEAM

E Team, the incident management system used during the 2002 Winter Olympic, will be made available to the state on a temporary licensing basis. This system proved instrumental to the successful information management and sharing by more than 1700 individuals in various local, state and federal entities during the Games.



DES will use E Team as an interim technology solution for emergency response and incident management, sharing of critical information within the public safety community, and assistance in the notification process in the event of a major disaster. Implementation will begin in Jan. 2003 with eventual statewide coverage. Initially, approximately 350 licenses will be available for agencies throughout the state.

DES will continue to evaluate this and other systems to determine which software products or systems are most suitable for the state's long range Homeland Security Mission. DES and other agencies will be working on criteria for a future system at the same time national data integration standards are being developed and federal funding sources are identified.

## DES CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

In addition to the usual merriment this time of year, the staff at DES collected canned food for the Utah Food Bank. Employees donated about a dozen boxfuls of non-perishable items. For the past several years, the staff has picked a worthy cause to rally around.

The staff at DES got into the holiday spirit in other ways as well including a cubicle/office decorating contest and a potluck lunch.

From all of us at DES, we wish you and your family and very happy holiday season and a prosperous and safe new year.

